

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2367–S2590*

**Measures Introduced:** Ten bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2812–2821, S. Res. 499–503, and S. Con. Res. 73. **Pages S2435–36**

**Measures Reported:**

S. Res. 468, designating April 2008 as “National 9–1–1 Education Month”.

S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2435**

**Measures Passed:**

*Honoring Fallen Members of the United States Armed Forces:* by a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. 87), Senate agreed to S. Res. 501, honoring the sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Page S2401**

*Fair Housing Act 40th Anniversary:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 503, recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. **Pages S2589–90**

*National Health Care Decisions Day:* Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 73, expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day. **Pages S2588–89**

**Measures Considered:**

**New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act and the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax act:** Senate began consideration of H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation, after agreeing to the motion to proceed to its consideration, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

**Pages S2368–S2401, S2401–24**

**Rejected:**

Durbin/Reid Amendment No. 4388 (to Amendment No. 4387), to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy. (By 58 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 88), Senate tabled the amendment).

**Pages S2370–S2401, S2403**

**Pending:**

Dodd/Shelby Amendment No. 4387, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2368–S2401, S2401–24**

Voinovich Amendment No. 4406 (to Amendment No. 4387), to protect families most vulnerable to foreclosure due to a sudden loss of income by extending the depreciation incentive to loss companies that have accumulated alternative minimum tax and research and development tax credits. **Pages S2403–07**

Landrieu Modified Amendment No. 4389 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow use of amended income tax returns to take into account receipt of certain hurricane-related casualty loss grants by disallowing previously taken casualty loss deductions, and to waive the deadline on the construction of GO Zone property which is eligible for bonus depreciation.

**Pages S2413, S2423–24**

Sanders Amendment No. 4401 (to Amendment No. 4387), to establish a national consumer credit usury rate. **Pages S2415–19**

Cardin/Ensign Amendment No. 4421 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of a principal residence by a first-time homebuyer. **Pages S2419–22**

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

By 44 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 89), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, with respect to consideration of Murray Amendment No. 4397 (to

Amendment No. 4387), to increase the funding for housing counseling resources, to condition Senate consideration of any tax cut reconciliation legislation on previous enactment of legislation to provide an outpatient prescription drug benefit under the Medicare program that is consistent with Medicare reform. Subsequently, the pay-as-you-go point of order that the amendment would cause or increase an on-budget deficit for either of the applicable time periods set out in S. Con. Res. 21, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S2407–12, S2422**

By 41 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 90), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, with respect to Kyl Amendment No. 4407 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust for inflation the dollar limitation for the principal residence gain exclusion. Subsequently, the pay-as-you-go point of order that the amendment would cause or increase an on-budget deficit for either of the applicable time periods set out in S. Con. Res. 21, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S2412–13, S2422–23**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9 a.m., on Friday, April 4, 2008, and Senate vote on or in relation to the following two amendments: Voinovich/Stabenow Amendment No. 4406 (listed above), and Landrieu Amendment No. 4389 (listed above), with no amendments in order to the amendments prior to a vote; provided that if a point of order is raised against any of the amendments covered in this agreement, and a motion to waive the appropriate point of order if point of order is made, then there be two minutes of debate with respect to the waiver, prior to a vote on the motion to waive, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; provided further, that after the first vote, the remaining vote be 10 minutes in duration.

**Pages S2421–22**

**Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Amendment Referral—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 2764, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to enhance protections for servicemembers relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. **Page S2590**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Bartholomew H. Chilton, of Delaware, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2013.

Scott O'Malia, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2012.

A routine list in the Public Health Service.

**Page S2590**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S2434**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S2434**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S2434**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S2434–35**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S2435**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2436–37**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S2437–86**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S2433–34**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S2486–S2587**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**  
**Pages S2587–88**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S2588**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—90) **Pages S2401, S2403, S2422, S2423**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:32 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Friday, April 4, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2590.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: NASA

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), after receiving testimony from Michael D. Griffin, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the status of the surface transportation trust funds and their impact on federal spending, after receiving testimony from James S. Simpson, Administrator,